

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

876,761



Date of filing Complete Specification: April 27, 1960.

No. 14814/60.

Complete Specification Published: Sept. 6, 1961.

Index at acceptance:—Class 18, A (2B2: 6D: 6E2).

International Classification:—B65d.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Cigarette Cases

We, WALTER MELVILLE LIMITED, a British Company, of 205, Regent Street, London, W.1, do hereby declare the invention, (Communication from Wilhelm Tschatsch, a German Citizen, of 75, Buchhugel-Allee, Offenbach-on-Main, Germany) for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to cigarette cases of the kind having a container or pouch-like portion and a flap adapted to cover the opening in said portion when the case is closed.

Hitherto, cigarette cases of the above kind have had the disadvantage that if the opening in the case is located at a level with or higher than the tops of the cigarettes located therein, the cigarettes have been relatively inaccessible. On the other hand, if the opening in the case is located below the level of the tops of the cigarettes, adequate protection is not afforded to them.

Thus, it is the object of the present invention to provide a new and improved cigarette case which will substantially overcome these disadvantages.

According to the invention, there is provided a cigarette case comprising a flexible pouch-like container, a closure flap, a frame loosely positioned in said container to receive cigarettes, and frame withdrawal means including one or more members, each pivotally attached to the frame at one end and fitted into a pocket in the flap at the other end so that opening of the flap partially withdraws the frame from the container to render the cigarettes accessible.

The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a front view of a cigarette case according to the invention in perspective, showing the case closed;

Figure 2 is a front view of the cigarette case shown in Figure 1 but showing the case open;

Figure 3 is a sectional view taken on the line III—III of Figure 1

Figure 4 is a sectional view taken on the line IV—IV of Figure 2; and

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 2 showing a modification of the cigarette case shown in Figures 1 to 4.

Referring to Figures 1 to 4 of the drawings, a cigarette case comprises a container or pouch-like portion 1 and a flap closure portion 2. This case is formed of a soft material such as leather or a thermoplastic material.

Inside the portion 1 of the case, a frame 3 is provided and consists of a bent metal strip having a base portion 4 and side members 5 and 6. The frame is of similar dimensions to the interior of the portion 1 but is a loose fit to enable it to slide easily into and out of the portion 1. Cigarettes 7, placed in the pouch-like portion 1 of the case, rest on the base portion 4 of the frame 3 and will move with the frame when it moves outwardly of portion 1. On return motion of the frame, the cigarettes 7 will return to their original position by gravity if the case is held upright.

Pivotally attached to the side members 5 and 6 of the frame are two metal members 8 and 9 respectively, their respective pivots being indicated at 10 and 11. The two members 8 and 9 fit into pockets 12 and 13 in the flap 2, formed by folding the material of the flap on itself and then stitching or welding round the pockets. The members 8 and 9 are retained in the pockets either by friction or by stitching, rivetting or any other suitable method (not shown).

In operation, the opening of the flap 2 draws the members 8 and 9 away from the container or pouch-like portion 1, and by virtue of their pivotal connection with the side members 5 and 6 of the frame 3, will partially withdraw the frame 3 and the cigarettes 7 therein from the portion 1, thereby render-

Price 4s 6d

ing the cigarettes easily accessible.

On closure of the case, the flap 2 is folded back over the container or pouch-like portion 1 and the members 8 and 9 approach the portion 1 pushing the frame 3 back into the portion 1 allowing the cigarettes to follow under the action of gravity.

The embodiment just described suffers from two disadvantages. Firstly, certain difficulty may be experienced in retaining the members 8 and 9 in the flap 2 where it is undesirable to use rivets or to stitch through the members. Secondly, when closing the cigarette case, some of the cigarettes may stick and refuse to drop back into the case.

The second embodiment of the invention does, to a great extent, overcome these latter objections but is, of course, somewhat more complicated.

Referring to Figure 5, the main feature of difference of this second embodiment over the first embodiment is the construction of the frame 3 and the members 21, 22 and 23 (corresponding in purpose to the members 8 and 9 in Figures 1 to 4).

In this embodiment as before, the frame 3 has a base portion 4 and side members 5 and 6. Three additional members 24, 25 and 26 help to retain the cigarettes in an upright position in the frame and also aid in returning the cigarettes into container or pouch-like portion 1 when the case is closed. The member 24 is an upright member dividing the case into two compartments and prevents the cigarettes from taking up a lying position in the bottom of the case when only a few cigarettes are in the case. The two members 25 and 26 form a cross piece which will also aid in retaining the cigarettes in a vertical position. They will also transmit the motion of the frame to the cigarettes particularly when the frame is returned into the container or pouch-like portion 1 when closing the case.

The main feature of this embodiment lies in the provision of the cross member 21 joining the two members 22 and 23 as this will greatly increase the frictional contact of the portion which causes the motion of the frame 3 with the flap 2. As can be seen, the provision of the member 21 makes it possible for the flap

2 to be stitched as shown at 27 to retain the members 21, 22 and 23 in position in relation to the flap and enable the proper functioning of the frame 3 and its associated

Although in the embodiments described, the case has been constructed of a soft material, it is envisaged within the scope of the invention to use a material of a stiffer nature such as cardboard or to stiffen the soft material as required by stiffening members to enable it to retain its shape.

Further, although in the embodiments described there have been two members pivotally connected to the frame, the invention also envisages the possibility of providing only one such member or any number of members as described.

Generally, therefore, the invention provides a cigarette case which while providing adequate protection for the cigarettes contained therein, enables the cigarettes to be easily accessible.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A cigarette case comprising a flexible pouch like container, a closure flap, a frame loosely positioned in said container to receive cigarettes, and frame withdrawal means including one or more members, each pivotally attached to the frame at one end and fitted into a pocket in the flap at the other end so that opening of the flap partially withdraws the frame from the container to render the cigarette accessible.

2. A cigarette case according to Claim 1, wherein the said members are two in number and are joined by a strip at their ends opposite to the pivots.

3. A cigarette case according to Claim 2, wherein the two members and strip are retained in position in the flap by means of a line of stitches positioned adjacent the strip and between the two members.

4. A cigarette case substantially as described herein with reference to Figures 1 to 4 or 5 of the accompanying drawings.

For the Applicants:—

F. J. CLEVELAND & COMPANY,
Chartered Patent Agents,
29 Southampton Buildings,
Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

FIG. 1.

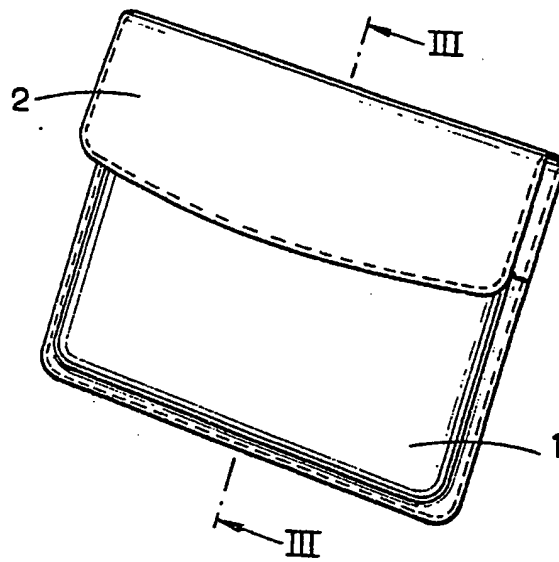


FIG. 2.

